

South Portland City Council
Position Paper of the City Clerk

Subject:

**RESOLVE #16-17/18 - Asking that bells be rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day.
Passage requires majority vote.**

Position:

State law (30-A M.R.S.A. §2901) requires municipalities to ring any publicly owned or controlled bells at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day and requires municipalities to ask that any privately owned bell be rung at 11:00 a.m. Accordingly, Resolve #16-17/18 states that the City will ring any bells in its possession at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, and also asks residents to ring any bells they own at the same hour.

Requested Action:

Council passage of RESOLVE #16-17/18.



City Clerk

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 30-A: MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES
Chapter 131: HISTORY AND OBSERVANCES

§2901. DECORATION OF VETERANS' GRAVES ON MEMORIAL DAY

1. Decoration of veterans' graves. Each municipality, as directed by its municipal officers, annually shall decorate on the day Memorial Day is observed the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America with an American flag and appropriate flag holders.

[1999, c. 700, §3 (AMD) .]

2. Erection of flagpole as alternative.

[1999, c. 700, §3 (RP) .]

3. No effect on individuals' right to decorate. This section does not in any way affect the right of any friend or relative of a deceased veteran to decorate the grave.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

4. Bell ringing on Veterans Day. Each municipality shall, unless it will cause the municipality to incur an additional expense, cause any public bell or clarion within its possession or control to be rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and the municipal officers of each municipality shall request that any other bell or clarion within the municipality be rung voluntarily at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and shall take such steps as are necessary to properly coordinate public and volunteer events.

[1999, c. 700, §3 (AMD) .]

5. Unorganized townships. If veterans' graves as described in this section are located in an unorganized township, the county in which that unorganized township is located is subject to the provisions in this section.

[1999, c. 700, §3 (NEW) .]

6. Graves on land owned by Federal Government. Veterans' graves located on a site that was owned by the Federal Government as of January 1, 2000 are not subject to the requirements of this section.

[1999, c. 700, §3 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). 1989, c. 211, (AMD). 1999, c. 700, §3 (AMD) .

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MAXINE R. BEECHER

At Large
SUSAN HENDERSON

IN CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVE #16-17/18

WHEREAS, November 11 is the national observance of Veterans Day;
and

WHEREAS, 11:00 a.m. on November 11 is a time of historical
significance, being the date and time of the end of World War I; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day observances include paying tribute to
veterans of all United States wars; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Portland joins with the rest of the nation in
paying tribute to veterans on November 11 and seeks to encourage all
residents of the City to recognize and honor the contributions of veterans on
this day; and

WHEREAS, residents have planned a Veterans Day parade for
November 11 honoring veterans of all U.S. wars and those men and women
currently serving in the U.S. armed forces; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of
South Portland will cause any public bell within its control to be rung at
11:00 a.m. on November 11; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby respectfully
requests any person, business or organization within the City of South
Portland in possession or control of a bell to ring the bell at 11:00 a.m. on
November 11.

[Fiscal Note: less than \$1,000]

DATED: November 6, 2017